

REMARKS

Claims 11-23 are in the application.

Claim 17 has been amended to remove the multiple periods appearing throughout the claim.

Election / Restriction

The Office Action asserts that restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 because the application contains the following inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

Group I: Claims 11-16, drawn to fabric care compositions.

Group II: Claims 17-19, drawn to fabric care methods.

Group III: Claims 20-21, drawn to a fabric care kit.

Group IV: Claim 22, drawn to fabric care methods.

Group V: Claim 23, drawn to a fabric care kit.

Applicants hereby confirm the previous election to prosecute the invention of Group II, Claims 17-19, with traverse. Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement on the basis that even though the inventions may be independent or distinct, there is no serious burden on the Examiner to perform a search and examination of all the claims herein.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicates that the references cited in the PCT Search Report have been considered. Applicants respectfully request that these references be listed by the Examiner on a PTO-892 form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Office Action alleges that the phrase "essentially free" of starch and silicone renders the claims indefinite because the metes and bounds of the claim cannot be determined. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants clearly define what is meant by the phrase "substantially free of" at page 5, lines 20-24. Applicants thus submit that Claims 17-19 are definite and patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/04772. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. WO 98/04772 teaches a method of treating fabric comprising applying a composition comprising a polycarboxylic acid or derivative thereof, and curing the composition using a domestic process, such as tumble drying or ironing. The composition can be applied to fabric by spraying. The composition can further comprise a fabric softening compound and water as a carrier

molecule. WO 98/04772 further teaches that "[i]n some cases to reduce wrinkling of the fabric it is beneficial for spray products to further comprise ethanol, isopropanol or a glycol." See page 13, lines 27-30.

In contrast, the present methods require a clear or translucent composition comprising a solvent between about 0.01% and 15% of an alcohol having a ClogP of from about 0.15 to about 0.64, wherein the alcohol lacks a center of symmetry. WO 98/04772 does not teach or suggest a method utilizing compositions comprising solvents comprising such alcohols. Furthermore, WO 98/04772 does not teach or suggest how much ethanol, isopropanol or glycol should be used in its compositions.

Applicants thus submit that Claims 17-19 are unobvious and patentable over WO 98/04772 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

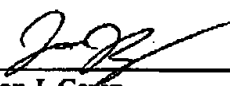
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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